

Weather Forecast
Cloudy, cool, windy today; clear to-
night. Tomorrow fair, warmer.
Temperatures today—Highest, 73, at
1:30 p.m.; lowest, 59, at 4:10 a.m. Yes-
terday—Highest, 74, at 10:58 a.m.; low-
est, 64, at 11:55 p.m.

Late New York Markets, Page A-17.

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

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WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1944.—THIRTY-EIGHT PAGES.***

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BATTLE PAGES IN CHERBOURG; FALL NEAR

Forrestal Indicates U. S. Fleet Has Caught Up With Japanese; Battle Is Raging, Tokyo Asserts

King Joins Nimitz In Optimism Over Outcome of Fight

(Map on Page A-4.)

By WILLIAM J. WHEATLEY.

The Navy Department has received some indication that the American task fleet "may have succeeded in catching up with all or a part of the Japanese fleet yesterday west of the Marianas, Secretary Forrestal told a press conference today.

However, "there is no definite information as to this," the Secretary said in the presence of Admiral Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the United States fleet.

Admiral Nimitz's fleet, the Secretary continued, is under strict radio silence. He said the Navy seaplanes and submarines have been most useful in reconnoitering the Japanese fleet. Admiral King added that he hoped the statement concerning the contact of the two fleets "covers accurately" as much as we are able to relate at this time. He said he was not worried about the outcome.

(A Japanese broadcast recorded in New York said today that a "force naval battle" is raging in the Central Pacific off the Marianas.

The British radio said "a Japanese spokesman was quoted as saying that this battle would have far-reaching effects on the Pacific war situation." CBS recorded the London report of the Japanese broadcast.)

Japs Sighted Several Times.

The Japanese fleet, Mr. Forrestal said, has been sighted at various times during the last few days, milling around from 500 to 800 miles west of Saipan Island, the Marianas island on which the American marines and troops effected a landing last Wednesday.

"On June 19," Mr. Forrestal continued, "Japanese planes attacked our naval forces near Saipan. These planes apparently came from carriers then some 500 miles to the westward. The Japanese plan seems to have been to launch the aircraft at extreme range from the Marianas with the idea that they would land for refueling on Guam and Rota. We have no other details of the resulting air battle other than the fact that our forces are ready for attack. Our carrier aircraft and ships' anti-air guns wiped out most of the Japanese planes."

Action Long Hoped For.

Secretary Forrestal continued that the situation as it appears between the Philippines and the Marianas is something that had been hoped for for a long time and Admiral King added that the exposure of the Japanese fleet was the "kind of co-operation" the American Navy has expected from Japan for a long period. "The sooner the Japanese fleet comes out and fights the better we will be satisfied," Mr. Forrestal interjected.

Admiral King said that losses, of course, may be expected in any contact with the fleet. However, he added, the losses to date have been less than those allowed for, but whether the losses will continue he was unable to say.

Americans Can 'Take Care Of Everything,' Nimitz Says

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, June 21 (AP)—Giant battle fleets of the United States and Japan faced each other today in the 1,500 miles between the Philippines and Marianas amid indications that a preliminary battle may have opened a history-shaking naval engagement.

"Possibly the entire Japanese fleet" has entered the area, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed. It was the first report on the whereabouts of (Continued on Page A-4, Column 1.)

Japs Take Long Step Toward Splitting China

65 Miles From Hengyang After Taking Changsha

By the Associated Press.

CHUNGKING, June 21.—Japanese forces have driven across the Lu River and are within 65 miles of strategic Hengyang, approximately 100 air miles southwest of the fallen Hunan Province capital of Changsha, the Chinese high command announced today.

Hengyang, apparently the next major goal of the Japanese, is situated on the Siang River at the junction of the Canton-Hankow and Hunan-Kwangsi Railways. Should it fall the Japanese would have taken a long step toward splitting China in half, establishing an overland trunk railway, neutralizing a number of Allied air bases and putting themselves in better position to oppose possible American landings on the China coast.

The fall of Changsha was acknowledged yesterday by the Chinese high command, which said the last defenders withdrew from the city Sunday after inflicting heavy casualties on the Japanese. The Chinese said the Japanese had employed approximately 50,000 troops, strongly supported by artillery and air attacks to take the city.

Reds Drive On Toward Helsinki After Occupying Port of Viipuri

Germans Reported Exerting Pressure On Finns Not to Sue for Peace

(Map on Page A-7.)

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, June 21.—Victorious Russian troops who occupied Finland's fortress seaport of Viipuri yesterday drove on today toward the capital city of Helsinki, where the Germans were reported exerting pressure to keep their small ally from suing for peace with Premier Stalin.

The Finnish radio, which told of the Russian advance, urged all persons whose presence was not essential to evacuate Helsinki, which lies approximately 135 air miles west of Viipuri.

(The Russians "have advanced 3 miles beyond Viipuri," the British radio said today in a broadcast heard in New York by C. B. S.)

Twenty salvos from 224 guns boomed in Moscow last night after Stalin's order of the day announcing the fall of Viipuri to Marshal Leonid Govorov's Leningrad Army after a smashing 11-day offensive.

The Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter said the Germans were endeavoring to block formation of a Finnish "peace cabinet." Finns asserted would be formed "very soon" as a result of the Russian successes.

U. S. Warned Procope Three Times to Curb 'Inimical' Activities

Capital Reports Hint New Political Crisis Shaping Up in Helsinki

By JOSEPH H. BAIRD.

Minister Hjalmar J. Procope of Finland was warned by the State Department three times about his "inimical" activities before he finally was declared persona non grata, it was learned authoritatively today.

At the same time, official sources here understood that a political crisis is shaping up in Helsinki which may mean either a more pro-German government or the formation of a cabinet which will reopen peace negotiations with Russia.

Meanwhile, Mr. Procope was to leave Washington today for Finland, it was learned at the State Department.

State Department officials would not reveal which means of transportation he will use.

The British government, it is known, has been asked to grant him a safe conduct pass.

Mme. Procope, who is expecting a child soon, will remain here until she feels able to travel.

Told Position Was Delicate.

In conversation with a State Department official, Mr. Procope was told several times that he should be more careful about his utterances and activities here if he wished to remain on good terms with the American government.

It was pointed out to him that his position here was a very delicate one, inasmuch as he represented a country which was at war with two of America's Allies, Russia and Great Britain. He was informed that the State Department had no objection to any activities which he might carry on in the legitimate interests of his country, but that he should realize that a sharp boundary must be defined between those activities and others which might be "inimical" to the interest of the United States.

The State Department does not consider Mr. Procope as a Nazi. However, the official view is that he has been extremely unwise in his private conversations during which (See PROCOPE, Page A-3.)

Lyttelton Apologizes; Intended To Thank U. S. for Early Aid

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, June 21.—In a personal apology to the House of Commons, Capt. Oliver Lyttelton, British Minister of War Production, disclaimed today any intention of saying in a speech yesterday that United States lease-lend aid to Britain had forced Japan into attacking Pearl Harbor because, he declared, such a statement was "manifestly untrue."

Capt. Lyttelton explained that in an interpolation in a speech which he delivered before the American Chamber of Commerce he had merely tried to make clear Britain's gratitude for aid given her by the United States before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

He concluded: "I want to make it quite clear that I do not complain of being misunderstood and that any mis-

A Finnish informant in Stockholm said loss of the key Karelian fortifications "left us helpless because our whole scheme of defense was built on the expectation we would be able to hold there."

"Our overextended armies in Eastern Karelia are now endangered," he added. "To carry on would mean falling back into the lake and forest region and fighting guerrilla warfare."

The Moscow radio said Finland was on "the brink of defeat."

What steps the Germans would take to try to keep Finland in the war were uncertain. A Stockholm report said the Germans were threatening occupation of three Finnish ports along a 70-mile stretch at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia—Tornio, Kemi and Oulu—and the Aland Islands in the gulf between Sweden and Finland.

By these tactics the Germans could control shipping routes to the north and the nickel mines vital to both Germany and the Finns, the report said.

Stalin's announcement declared Red Army troops had crashed through the Mannerheim Line, and "developing their offensive, overpowered the outer and inner defenses of Viipuri, and today, June 20, carried by assault the fortress and town of Viipuri."

Berlin broadcasts said the Hanover and Brunswick areas also had been attacked, but there was no immediate Allied confirmation of these reports.

The Germans asserted that Berlin had been the target of a "heavy terror raid."

At the same time big fleets of Allied planes were observed streaking over Dover Strait and disappearing in the direction of the German rocket bomb bases which have been pounded continuously for five days.

Rail Yards Attacked.

During the night the tempo of the Allied aerial offensive was maintained as RAF Mosquitoes thundered out in relays for four hours to smash German lines of reinforcements by blasting the Mezdor railroad yards near Caen in the Normandy battle area. Rail yards at Chartres also were hit.

Along with the Pas-de-Calais bomb launching platforms German gun casemates defending the tip of the Cherbourg Peninsula and a stubborn coastal battery at Houle, near the Allies' east flank, were bombed both yesterday and last night.

Planes mounted high after the attack on Chartres, 80 miles southwest of Paris, and trains on the Chartres-Lens line were shot up.

10 Rocket Bomb Bases Hit.

Capping five months of hammering at the Pas-de-Calais area by the American Air Force alone—not counting the heavy bomber attacks—in which 19,000 tons of bombs were dropped in the course of 420 attacks by a total of 23,500 planes, RAF planes of various types blasted 10 separate rocket bomb bases yesterday.

Many of the bombers were flown by French and Dutch pilots.

While the results were reported "satisfactory," the attacks covered only a part of the installations, because hours afterwards English skies hummed intermittently with the jet-explosions of the buzz-bombs.

BULLETINS

Jury Gets Mergner Case

The first-degree murder trial of Fred C. Mergner in the slaying of Mrs. Charlotte Robinson was submitted to a District Court jury for deliberation at 2:40 p.m. today. (Earlier story on Page B-1.)

Nats Lead, 1-0

Spence knocked a home run in the fourth inning of the first game of today's double-header to give Washington a 1-to-0 lead over the Yankees at the end of the fourth inning.

Another Cool Night Is Forecast as Summer Begins

Summer officially began at 9:03 a.m. today—longest day of the year.

Warmer weather this afternoon and another clear, cool night were forecast. The sun rose at 5:42 a.m. and will not set until 8:37 p.m., 14 hours and 55 minutes later.

Tomorrow will be fair and warmer, the weatherman says.

1,000 Big Bombers in Raid; Flyers Meet Only 50 Fighters

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, June 21.—More than 1,000 American Flying Fortresses and Liberators blasted Berlin and the capital's outskirts today, and the German radio indicated that at least some of the planes flew on eastward—possibly in the first shuttle raid from Britain to new American bases in Russia.

The bomber fleet had an escort of about 1,000 fighters, making a total force of some 2,000 planes which again carried the aerial war to the heart of the German homeland.

Basdorf, on Berlin's outskirts, also was blasted.

German broadcasts admitted damage and casualties and threatened to retaliate with "bigger and more powerful explosives" than those used in the current rocket-bomb offensive.

50 Fighters Encountered.

No more than 50 German fighters rose to challenge the biggest fleet of American bombers to fly over Berlin. Only one or two bomber groups reported seeing any fighters at all.

Shuttle-bombing flights from Britain to Russia would complete the "ring of steel" thrown about Germany by Allied bombers. Flights already have been made from Mediterranean bases to new American airfields inside Russia. Russia's frontier is about 900 miles air line from England—easily within the range of both Flying Fortresses and Liberators, which yesterday flew more than 1,000 miles roundtrip to the Stettin area.

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House Places Unions In Scope of Checkup On November Voting

Sets Up Machinery For Biennial Inquiry Into Possible Frauds

By the Associated Press.

The House today set up machinery for investigating any suspected election fraud this presidential campaign year and for the first time wrote labor unions into the scope of the investigation.

Heretofore biennial investigation of Congressional campaigns has been confined to contributions that may have been made illegally by corporations or other business associations.

The House rewrote the inquiring resolution to make susceptible to investigation the contributions of individuals, partnerships, corporations, committees or labor unions.

In addition, attention is to be paid to "the amounts raised, contributed and expended by any labor organization, trade or business association and any other agency."

As the measure came out of the Rules Committee, it included "any political committee" connected with a labor organization, but this language was removed on the motion of Representative Marcantonio.

American Labor Party, New York, who said it was "singling out labor unions" too much.

The "political committee" phrase was intended, Rules Committee members said, to apply to the CIO Political Action Committee, named as a factor in the several special elections this year.

Mr. Marcantonio said the resolution, as finally drawn, "takes in everybody without singling out anybody."

Speaker Rayburn will appoint a committee of seven House members to conduct the investigation.

Eight Task Fleets Established by Navy

Admiral King Announces Commands, Assignments

By the Associated Press.

Admiral Ernest J. King, Navy commander in chief, returned from European conferences and an inspection of the invasion coast, disclosed today the commands and assignments of eight United States task fleets.

At a news conference, he described the numerically designated units as task fleets equipped to carry out any type of operation.

He said that originally the system of command called for task units, then for larger task groups, then task forces. The task forces were combined to form the numerical fleets, or "task fleets."

He announced the commands and assignments of these eight task fleets:

Pacific—Third Fleet. Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.; 5th Fleet, Admiral Raymond E. Spruance; 7th Fleet, Vice Admiral Thomas Kinkaid, in the Southwest Pacific; 9th Fleet, Vice Admiral Frank J. Fletcher, in the Pacific.

Atlantic and European—Fourth Fleet. Vice Admiral Jonas Ingram, in the Atlantic; 8th Fleet, Vice Admiral Henry K. Hewitt, in the Mediterranean; 12th Fleet, Admiral Harold R. Stark, in the European waters; 10th Fleet, Admiral King, antisubmarine operations.

"They are all task forces," Admiral King said, "and vary in composition according to the work they have in hand."

Shenkel, Newsweek War Writer, Missing in B-29 Raid on Japan

Silver Spring Man Earlier Had Reported Spring Drive in Italy

By the Associated Press.

William T. Shenkel, 38, war correspondent for Newsweek and a resident of Silver Spring, Md., is missing from last week's raid of the B-29 Super Fortresses on Japan, the 20th Bomber Command headquarters here today notified Ernest Lindley, head of Newsweek's Washington bureau.

Mr. Shenkel's wife lives at 1914 Elkhart street, Silver Spring, with her two children, Kenneth, 10, and Richard, 7.

The War Department has not made public a list of those missing in the raid. The department is notifying next of kin and will publish (See SHENKEL, Page A-4.)

GOP Studies Security Plank Going Beyond Mackinac Pledge

Plan Proposes Military Force as Bulwark for World Co-operation

By the Associated Press.

CHICAGO, June 21.—Republican leaders moved rapidly today toward pre-convention agreement on a foreign policy platform plank pledging military force to preserve the world's future peace.

Senator Austin, Republican of Vermont brought to Chicago a one-page typewritten declaration of foreign policy which, he told a reporter, was patterned closely after the Mackinac Postwar Advisory Council statement.

The plan was understood to go beyond the Mackinac pledge for "responsible participation by the United States in postwar co-operative organization among sovereign nations to prevent military aggression," with a reference to the use of military force to back up this organization.

The proposed plank was described as projecting the establishment of an international tribunal to settle judicially the disputes among the nations.

Approved by Dewey's Friends.

Drafted by an Advisory Committee headed by Senator Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, the plan was understood to have been approved in principle by friends of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, a possible presidential nominee. It also has received the tentative approval of Senator Taft, Republican of Ohio, a supporter of Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio for the nomination.

At the same time, Senator Brooks, Republican of Illinois, who represents the viewpoint of those who are opposed to surrendering any vestige of American sovereignty to an international organization, said he had seen and was satisfied with the preliminary draft.

The plank will be submitted formally to platform drafters by Senator Vandenberg Friday. The Platform Committee delayed starting its deliberations until this afternoon because some members were late in arriving.

Battle for Votes.

While the platform drafters were preparing for their session, supporters of Gov. Dewey and other candidates fought hotel room battles for the presidential nominating votes now indexed for "favorite sons."

Loaded with ammunition accumulated (See REPUBLICANS, Page A-6.)

Individual Bond Sales Of \$500,000 in Day Are Smallest So Far

Reilly Admits Anxiety As District's Total Is Only 20.8% of Goal

By the Associated Press.

Only \$500,000, the smallest subscription reported for one day in the 10-day-old Fifth War Loan campaign here, was tabulated today to inch the city's individual bond sale total to \$12,700,000, or 20.8 per cent of the \$61,000,000 individual goal, an increase of only eight-tenths of 1 per cent.

Included in this latest report was \$300,000 in Series "E" bond purchases, pushing that total to \$7,900,000, or 23 per cent of the \$34,000,000 Series "E" quota.

Concerned about the District's failure to respond to the urgent appeal for more War Bond buying, John A. Reilly, chairman of the District War Finance Committee, today declared, "We've got to do better or we'll fail."

The District will have to double its present rate of subscription in individual bond purchases to meet its quota, he said.

Nationally, War Bonds purchased by individuals through Monday totaled \$964,000,000, or 16 per cent of the \$6,000,000,000 quota for individual sales in the \$16,000,000,000 campaign.

Sports Stars at Show.

More than 35 sports stars and celebrities will appear at tonight's show at the Army Air Forces "Shot From the Sky" exhibit at the Monument Grounds to auction off equipment used by them in championship sports events. In addition to the sports trophies, a wide variety of new sports equipment will be auctioned off to bond buyers at the show.

The program, sponsored by the Washington Touchdown Club, will begin at 8:30 p.m. and will feature speeches by Maj. Gen. Howard K. Loughry, Army Chief of Finance, and Bob Simmons, president of the club.

William H. Correa, Washington representative of the Socov-Vacuum Oil Co., Inc., today purchased \$500,000 in War Bonds in the name of his company from W. J. Waller, president of the Hamilton National Bank. The sale will be credited to the District quota.

District, Virginia and Maryland campaign leaders have announced that a War Bond message has been sent to Gen. Eisenhower for delivery to the 29th Division in France. (See WAR LOAN, Page A-4.)

Yanks Attacking Two Key Forts at City's Outskirts

Bradley Forces Push To Within Mile of Commercial Docks

(Map of Cherbourg on Page A-3.)

By the Associated Press.

SUPREME ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, June 21.—American doughboys, supported by heavy artillery and air bombardment, today assaulted two key inner fortresses guarding Cherbourg—one less than a mile from the commercial docks—and the fall of the city appeared to be a matter of hours. Fierce house-to-house fighting was raging in Cherbourg's suburbs.

(An NBC broadcast from Normandy declared "our ground forces are moving into Cherbourg.")

"Good progress has been made toward Cherbourg today," supreme headquarters said.

American troops have captured Acqueville and Teurtheville Hague on the western tip of Cherbourg Peninsula.

Advance Above Valognes.

Other Yank forces advanced northwest of Valognes, where Americans were astride the road leading to Cherbourg.

Heavy fighting was reported in the Tilly-sur-Seuilles area near the center of the Normandy front.

Eighty German tanks have been destroyed by the Allies so far.

The Air Forces yesterday flew 6,000 sorties in "one of the most successful days of the campaign," headquarters said.

The power drive against Cherbourg from the south hammered against Fort du Roule, on a hill at Cherbourg's outskirts, and within a mile of the docks, and Fort Octeville, a little more than a mile to the west.

Cherbourg's great military port area, now exploding under German demolitions, lies only 2 miles behind Fort Octeville.

Heavy Fighting in Suburbs.

The Germans were making a last-ditch stand in these inner-ring fortresses.

Heavy fighting was reported in the built-up suburban section of France's third greatest port.

The assault on the forts raced forward from St. Martin le Grand, 4 miles south of Cherbourg, and advance units on the western flank took Acqueville, 3 to 4 miles west and slightly south of Cherbourg's city limits.

Fort du Roule, a major key to control of the besieged German stronghold, stands atop a 450-foot hill.

The French worked for more than a century building up Cherbourg's forts and defenses and the Germans now are making a last stand in the inner ring—which embraces part of the city itself.

Smoke Hangs over City.